



Proverbs 11:24-25

BIG IDEA

Adoration of and trust in Christ ignites the journey from greed to generosity.

ICE BREAKER

Think of a story in which you know you came face to face with your greed. Share with the group what the issue was and then share what was going on in your spirit in the middle of the grasping. If you need a story to stir some thought think of last weeks' story of hoarding toilet paper during the covid 19 crisis. Remember a study revealed that the more worried a person was about the virus the more toilet paper he hoarded. We can see from this that our greed is tied to our fear.

The road from greed to charity/generosity.

NEXT STEP

What is one way you can show the love of Christ to a neighbor or family member this week by giving your money, time, and talent?

(Remember, charity is linked to our adoration of Jesus? This connection is the fuel for charity.)

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

In Luke chapter 10 a young man asks Jesus, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" In response Jesus tells the story of a man who was beat by robbers and left for dead. Two prominent religious Jewish men see him and they each rationalize not helping the man. They cross over to the other side of the street.

1. How do you and I "**cross the street**" In order to keep certain people out of our life so we don't have to see the need? Be as specific as you can in naming it.

- Remember, the samaritan in Jesus story was labeled by the culture as a “low life”. When the samaritan saw a problem he saw himself as **“the answer.”** He used his skill and resources.
2. What cost did the Samaritan incur: money, time, skill?
 - Every community has its “bubble” that diminishes giving and justifies greed. Jesus said to him in verse 37, “You go, and do likewise.” Doing likewise is the hard part. Dream together as a small group and/or individually how you can do likewise. Group leaders: consider taking time to read through the story and pray together as a group in order to invite God’s Spirit to nudge hearts.
 3. Charity is linked to our adoration of Jesus. In other words we would not be wise to just pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps and try really hard to be more charitable. Connection to and adoration of Christ ignites charity! Pray together and or discuss ways to foster this connection this coming week.

NOTES AND QUOTES

We want to be way over average as a church in giving because we adore Christ.

A person free of greed is free and eager to love. They see clearly the great irony of worshipping MORE and look for ways to enrich the lives of others by extending their whole self as an act of charity.

Our efforts to grasp does not make us richer, it does the opposite. Those who allow gifts to flow through them become richer.

Proverbs 11:24-25 “A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed. A person free of greed is free and eager to love.”

Consider reading the book or watch the movie (1995 edition) by Jane Austen, “Sense and Sensibility.”

Proverbs 28:25 “A greedy man stirs up strife, but those who trust in the Lord will prosper.”

We are deceived whenever we think greed will lead to something good--greed is a lack of trust in God.

Greed’s counter virtue is charity which flows out of trust. Greed blocks flourishing. We get greedy in the moment because we are worried about our flourishing.

Greed begins with distrust in God, then turns to fear and demandingness.

Adoration of MORE cannot bring us what we truly long for.